



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government, *Chair*
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Environment and Natural Resources
Health Policy

SENATOR DEBBIE MAYFIELD

17th District

November 2, 2020

Mary Walker, Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
61 Forsyth St. SW Mail Code 9T25
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: 404 Assumption State of Florida
Docket EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0640

Dear Ms. Walker,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the state of Florida's request to assume administration of the Clean Water Act 404 Permitting Program. I believe that State assumption will lead to more efficient permitting processes, reduction of costs, conservation of resources and, most importantly, enhanced protection for Florida's wetlands.

At the root of our state's desire to operate the 404 program is a passion for protecting and restoring Florida's environment. Florida's natural resources are central to our economy, our quality of life, and our identity. It is for this reason that we are especially excited about the 404 program. State assumption will grant more localized control over our ecological communities allowing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) capable and passionate staff to administer a program that will be just as stringent, if not more stringent than the existing program.

The assumption of the 404 Program will also allow for Florida to continue to work closely with our Federal partners for the restoration and preservation of our natural environment. Again, I fully support FDEP's assumption of this program and encourage you to approve the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Mayfield".

Debbie Mayfield
State Senator, District 17

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, Melbourne, Florida 32901 (321) 409-2025 FAX: (888) 263-3815
- ☐ 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 226-1970
- ☐ 322 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5017

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BILL GALVANO
President of the Senate

DAVID SIMMONS
President Pro Tempore